

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15
NSC-05 /056 W

-----061829 111228Z /14

R 102116Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8515

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

FAA BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, FR, UK

SUBJ: CONCORDE -- KENNEDY RUNWAY QUESTION

1. DURING A RECENT MEETING OF EMBASSY CIVIL AIR
ATTACHE AND FAA REPRESENTATIVE WITH MICHEL LAGORCE
(COMMERCIAL DIRECTOR FOR THE CONCORDE AT THE DIRECTORATE
GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION), LAGORCE DREW OUR ATTENTION
TO AN EMERGING KENNEDY RUNWAY PROBLEM WHICH IS CAUSING
SOME CONCERN.

2. FOR 21-25 DAYS IN MAY AND JUNE, KENNEDY RUNWAY 22R
(WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR 20 PERCENT OF CONCORDE USAGE) WILL
BE CLOSED BY THE PORT OF NEW YORK AUTHORITY FOR REPAIRS.
HOPEFULLY, WIND CONDITIONS WILL PERMIT GREATER THAN
NORMAL RELIANCE ON RUNWAY 31L, BUT IT MAY BE NECESSARY
TO USE RUNWAY 13R -- WHICH LEADS OVER POPULATED AREAS --
FOR TAKEOFFS AND THIS COULD CAUSE RENEWED CITIZEN UNREST
IN THE AREA. (CONCORDE UTILIZATION OF RUNWAY 13R WOULD
BE ONLY A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF ITS TOTAL UTILIZATION
UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT IT WOULD BE AN EXTREMELY
VISIBLE PHENOMENON.)

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3. THE GOF AND AIR FRANCE (PRESUMABLY HMG AND BRITISH
AIR AS WELL) ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THIS POSSIBLE
REAWAKENING OF NOISE POLITICS NEAR KENNEDY AND ARE
CONSIDERING THREE ALTERNATIVES: (A) AUTHORIZE USE OF
13R -- HOPING WIND CONDITIONS WILL KEEP IT TO A
MINIMUM -- AND MOUNT A MAJOR PR CAMPAIGN TO EXPLAIN THE

SITUATION LOCALLY; (B) TEMPORARILY ABANDON SERVICE TO JFK IN FAVOR OF PHILADELPHIA OR WASHINGTON, WITH PASSENGERS SEPARATELY TRANSPORTED TO/FROM NEW YORK; (C) USE 13R BUT TAKE OFF WITH REDUCED FUEL WEIGHT AND THUS HAVE TO MAKE INTERMEDIATE STOP AT GANDER, NEWFOUNDLAND. ALTERNATIVE (A) APPEARS PREFERABLE AT THE MOMENT, BUT NO DECISION HAS YET BEEN TAKEN.

4. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO LAGORCE, THE PNTA DECISION TO PROCEED WITH RUNWAY REPAIRS IS FULLY JUSTIFIABLE AND DOES NOT APPEAR TO INVOLVE ANY DESIRE TO GET AT THE CONCORDE.
HARTMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RUNWAYS, AIRPORTS, CONCORDE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PARIS08614
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780109-0814
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780382/aaaacrod.tel
Line Count: 75
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 58a0acc9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3372735
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONCORDE -- KENNEDY RUNWAY QUESTION
TAGS: EAIR, FR, UK, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/58a0acc9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014